The undersigned has noted that in the Information Disclosure Citation attached to the Office Action of October 3, 2002, the Examiner did not initial all documents cited by Applicant. As noted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed October 31, 2000, those references were entered in prior application 09/205,945, so additional copies were not provided in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(d). However, for the Examiner's convenience, copies are attached and the references are again listed in the attached Citation. Confirmation of consideration of the references would be appreciated.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

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Concord, MA 01742-9133
Dated: 6/2/3

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

3. (Twice Amended) A microscope slide stainer comprising:

a slide housing into which at least one microscope slide is inserted, said housing having a cavity into which liquids are dispensed [and which contains a], the cavity containing a sufficient volume of liquid [over] to cover the at least one microscope slide;

a liquid dispenser, said dispenser being capable of movement under microprocessor control so as to align the dispenser with a slide; and

a liquid aspirator, said aspirator being capable of removing liquid from the cavity.

11. (Twice Amended) A method of staining slides comprising:

inserting a slide into a slide housing, said housing having a cavity into which liquids can be dispensed [and which contains a], the cavity containing a sufficient volume of liquid [over] to cover the at least one microscope slide;

moving the slide housing under microprocessor control into alignment with a liquid dispenser;

dispensing liquid into the cavity of said housing, said liquid also contacting said slide; and

aspirating liquid from the cavity of said housing.